

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 28 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 7, 10, 17, 20, and 28 being independent. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 22 have been amended and Claim 28 is newly added herein. Claims 2, 8, 14, 18, 21, and 23-27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-2, 5, 6/2, 6/5, 7-10, 13-14, 15/10, 15/13, 15/14, 16/15/10, 16/15/13, 16/15/14 and 17-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,769,683 (Hiramatsu). Claims 3, 6/3, 11, 15/11 and 16/15/11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiramatsu. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With the claimed arrangements, the position of the conveyance roller can be made stable during both driving status and halt status.

Hiramatsu describes an image recording apparatus that includes a conveying roller 14 and a pinch roller 21. Conveying roller 14 is rotatably supported by a bearing 20, which supports roller shaft portion 14a. As shown in Figure 3, shaft portion 14a is stabilized to be in tangential contact with two bearing arc portions 20a of bearing 20 at contact lines 20c. Hiramatsu includes no discussion or suggestion regarding contact

positions of vector forces during starting up, stopping, acceleration or deceleration. Accordingly, Hiramatsu does not disclose or suggest that two contact portions are formed at positions in symmetry with respect to a direction of the angle of the combined vector, as is variously recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, Hiramatsu fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Thus, the independent claims are submitted to be patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 7, 10, 17, 20, and 28. Dependent Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, and 22 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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